

Eleocharis geniculata - Canada spike-sedge Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1?/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range:

- AL, AZ, CA, FL, GA, HI (exotic), IL (rare), IN (rare), KS (rare), LA, MD, MI, MS (rare), NC, NJ, OH (rare), OK, PA, SC, TX
- Also occurs in Ontario (rare), Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

Recognition:

- An annual plant growing in tufts and lacking rhizomes
- From 4 to 40 cm tall, usually on the shorter end of the range
- Summit of leaf sheath firm and opaque rather than thin and translucent
- Base of the tubercle (= swollen persistent style base, which sits atop the fruit) is as wide as the summit of the fruit
- Fruits to 1 mm long, black to purplish black, smooth and shiny

Flowering/Fruiting Time: August to October (possibly throughout the growing season)

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status: FACW – usually in wetlands

Habitat:

In adjacent states, *E. geniculata* occurs in various fresh to brackish wetlands. Louisiana occurrences are from wet depressions on Grand Isle, South Breton Island, and Timbalier Island.

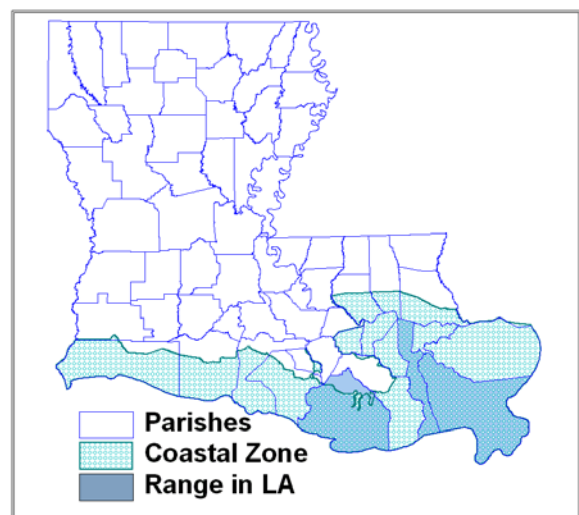
Threats:

- Coastal land loss
- Succession, causing overgrowth in taller vegetation

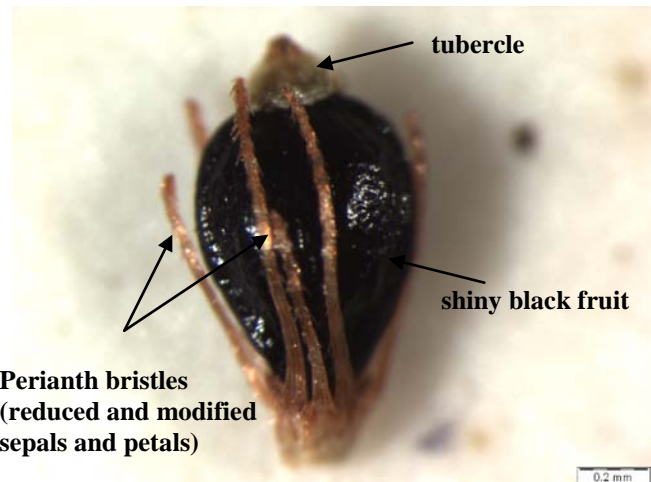
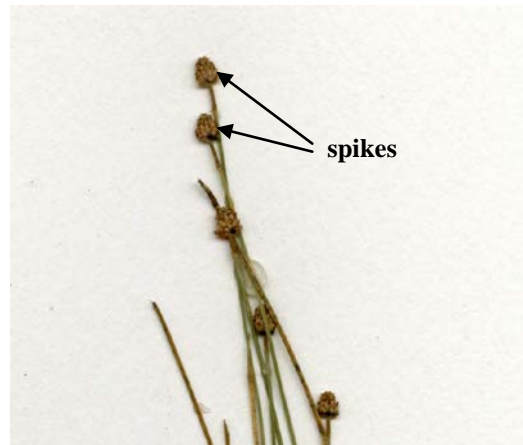
Beneficial Management Practices:

- Barrier island protection
- Additional survey work focusing on depressions behind mainland beaches and dunes is warranted

LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria, Terrebonne



Rare Plants of Louisiana



References:

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